

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously presented): An apparatus comprising:

a rigid shaft having an open first end and an open second end defining a lumen therebetween; and

an inflatable bladder disposed at the distal end and in fluid communication with the lumen, the inflatable bladder having the shape of a wedge upon inflation such that the inflatable bladder separates adjacent portions of bone tissue thereby creating a working space.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder does not stretch when fully inflated.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from 10 mmHg to 1000 mmHg.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): An apparatus as in claim 3, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from 100 mmHg to 1000 mmHg.

Claims 5-6 (Canceled).

Appl. No. 10/743,192

Amdt. dated December 12, 2005

Reply to Office Action Mailed July 15, 2005

Claim 7 (Previously presented): An apparatus as in claim 1, further comprising a cannula having a passage which receives the shaft to deploy the bladder at a target site in tissue.

Claims 8-9 (Canceled).